

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-01 INT-05
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1789
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX, SP

SUBJECT: SUAREZ VISIT TO MEXICO

1. THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN ADOLFO SUAREZ ENDED A FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO MEXICO ON APRIL 26, THE FIRST SUCH VISIT TO MEXICO BY A TOP SPANISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN FORTY YEARS. THE VISIT SYMBOLIZED THE HEALING OF AN OLD AND DEEP WOUND WHICH RESULTED FROM MEXICAN SUPPORT OF THE REPUBLICANS IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR. EMOTIONS RAN HIGH AS MEXICANS WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS THIS REPRESENTATIVE OF THEIR MOTHER COUNTRY AND, WET EYES CHARACTERIZED THE ARRIVAL CEREMONIES FOR SUAREZ.

2. BESIDES SENTIMENT, SUAREZ' VISIT ALSO PRODUCED CONCRETE RESULTS, MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "MECHANISM" COMPOSED OF HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS AND COORDINATED BY THE RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DEAL WITH A WIDE GAMUT OF OLD AND NEW ISSUES BETWEEN SPAIN AND MEXICO. SUAREZ ALSO CONVEYED A FORMAL INVITATION FROM KING JUAN CARLOS TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO TO VISIT SPAIN. JLP ACCEPTED THE INVITATION, BUT HIS COMMENTS TO THE PRESS INDICATED THAT THE VISIT WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE

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UNTIL THE SECOND HALF OF 1977.

3. SUAREZ ALSO STATED TO THE PRESS THAT SPAIN IS SEARCHING TO DIVERSIFY ITS SOURCES OF PETROLEUM AND WOULD DISCUSS WITH THE GOM THE POSSIBILITY OF BUYING MEXICAN CRUDE. IN RELATED REMARKS, SUAREZ ALSO OFFERED SPAIN AS A LINK BETWEEN MEXICO/LATIN AMERICA AND THE ARAB WORLD. COMMENT:

SUAREZ DID NOT SPECIFY THE PURPOSE SUCH A LINK WOULD SERVE. MEXICO, OF COURSE, ALREADY HAS RELATIONS WITH MOST OF THE ARAB WORLD AND HAS, IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, BEEN CONCEN- TRATING MORE ON IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. HOWEVER, SINCE ARAB INVESTMENT HAS BEEN SLOW IN COMING TO MEXICO, SPAIN COULD POSSIBLY BE A FINANCIAL CHANNEL FOR ARAB FUNDS.

4. IN A SESSION WITH THE MEXICAN PRESS (COPY WILL BE POUCHED TO MADRID), SUAREZ AVOIDED ANY COMMENT OF SPANISH INTERNAL POLITICS. HE WAS QUESTIONED SEVERAL TIMES ABOUT HIS TRIP TO THE US AND STATED THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO REVIEW US-SPANISH RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF "A NEW SPAIN". WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEGOTIATION OF THE BASES AGREEMENT, SUAREZ SAID HE WOULD ANSWER AFTER HIS VISIT TO THE US. HE DESCRIBED RELATIONS WITH THE US AS EXCELLENT. THOMPSON

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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